

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A wheel assembly for a vehicle, the assembly comprising:
a wheel rim adapted to support a tire;
a first support plate mounted to said rim;
a second support plate ~~adapted to be mounted~~ for mounting to an axle;
at least one first coupling device, connected between said first and second support plates, for transferring torque between said first and second support plates and, when said first coupling device is engaged with said first and second support plates, prevention of radial displacement of the first support plate relative to the second support plate is independent of said at least one first coupling device; and

at least one second coupling device, connected between said first and second support plates, for securing said first and second support plates together, said second coupling device preventing radial displacement of said first support plate relative to said second support plate

wherein when the radial forces exceed a predetermined level the or each said second coupling device is incapable of transferring radial forces, from said first support plate to said second support plate, ~~radial forces, tending to remove the assembly from the axle when the radial forces exceed a predetermined level~~ and the or each second coupling device enables removal of the wheel rim and said first support plate from said second support plate.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one said first coupling device includes at least one body member having at least one first engaging device for enabling the or each said body member to slide in a first direction relative to said first support plate, and at least one second engaging device for enabling the

or each said body member to slide in a second direction; not parallel to said first direction, relative to said second support plate.

4. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one said first coupling device includes at least one body member and a plurality of first linkages pivotably connected between at least one said body member and said first support plate, and a plurality of second linkages pivotably connected between at least one said body member and said second support plate.

5. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein at least one said second coupling device further includes at least one first coupling member connected between said first and second support plates and adapted to fracture as a result of application thereto of radial or axial forces exceeding said respective predetermined levels.

6. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 5, wherein at least one second coupling device includes at least one second coupling member adapted to fracture as a result of fracture of at least one said first coupling member.

7. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said second support plate is ~~mounted to a gearbox which is~~ mounted to said axle via a gearbox.

8. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein said second support plate defines a region of decreasing cross section in a direction transverse to said axle.

9. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1, further comprising at least one removable securing device for securing said assembly to the axle.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A vehicle comprising:

(i) a chassis;

(ii) a cab for accommodating at least one occupant;

(iii) at least one wheel assembly comprising:

a wheel rim adapted to support a tire;

a first support plate mounted to said rim;

a second support plate ~~adapted to be mounted~~ for mounting to an axle;

at least one first coupling device, connected between said first and second support plates, for transferring torque between said first and second support plates and, when said first coupling device is engaged with said first and second support plates, prevention of radial displacement of the first support plate relative to the second support plate is independent of said at least one first coupling device; and

at least one second coupling device, connected between said first and second support plates, for securing said first and second support plates together, said second coupling device preventing radial displacement of said first support plate relative to said second support plate

wherein when the radial forces exceed a predetermined level the or each said second coupling device is incapable of transferring radial forces, from said first support plate to said second support plate, ~~radial forces, tending to remove the assembly from the axle when the radial forces exceed a predetermined level~~ and the or each second coupling device enables removal of the wheel rim and said first support plate from said second support plate; and

(iv) a respective axle provided on the chassis for supporting the or each said wheel assembly.